

Please **replace** Claim 12 with an amended version that reads as follows:

12 (Twice Amended). A pharmaceutical formulation of Claim 1, wherein the microcapsules comprise a polymer matrix, said polymer matrix comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of polylactide, polyglycolide, poly(lactic acid-co-glycolic acid), poly(e-caprolactone), poly(hydroxybutyric acid), polyortho-esters, polyacetals, polydihydropyrans, polycyanoacrylates, polypeptides, cross-linked polypeptides, and stereoisomers, racemic mixtures, co-polymers and polymer mixtures thereof.

Please **add** the following Abstract:

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Abstract

Effervescent pharmaceutical formulations for the sustained and controlled oral administration of a drug selected from a calcium channel blocker, an ACE inhibitor, a narcotic analgesic or analogues or combinations thereof, the formulation comprising microcapsules in which the drug is entrapped in a biodegradable polymer, for example poly-L lactide. The pH of the formulation can be varied to optimize the release of the or each drug from the formulation. Microcapsules suitably have a D 50% between about 100 nm and 900 nm and a drug loading of the order of about 10% to 70% by weight. The formulations can be used to administer the drugs to a patient on a once-daily basis so as to achieve a therapeutic effect over a substantially 24-hour period. --

~~Please cancel~~ claims 17-20.